

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 231103Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9632
INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, BU
SUBJECT: CU/ARTS: JOSE LIMON

STATE FOR CU/ARTS, ALSO FOR EUR/EE:AMBASSADOR HERZ;
USIA FOR IEE, IMV, ICS

REF: SOFIA 1007

1. VISIT TO SOFIA MAY 19-22 BY JOSE LIMON DANCE COMPANY
MANAGER JUDITH HANKINS ELICITED CLEAREST STATEMENTS YET OF
BULGARIAN INTENTION PRESENT LIMON COMPANY IN SOFIA THIS
SEPTEMBER. FORMAL ACCEPTANCE IS EXPECTED AFTER MATCHING
COMPANY'S SCHEDULE WITH AVAILABLE LOCAL SITE.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY P&C OFFICER, HANKINS TOURED THREE POSSIBLE
SITES FOR JOSE LIMON PERFORMANCES: STATE OPERA HOUSE, STATE
MUSICAL THEATER AND STATE SATIRICAL THEATER.

3. OPERA IS WELL LOCATED, HAS MOST PRESTIGE AND CONFORMS
BEST WITH WHAT HANKINS CALLED "GRANDIOSE" NATURE OF LIMON
COMPANY'S STYLE. HOWEVER, ITS LIGHTING FACILITIES ARE
SOMEWHAT ANTIQUATED, AND LIMON COMPANY EITHER WOULD
BE FORCED LIMIT ITS REPERTOIRE OR BRING WITH IT ALL
ITS OWN EQUIPMENT. LATTER ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE PRO-
BLEM FOR BULGARIANS, WHO HAVE AGREED TRANSPORT COMPANY
AND HOPE DO SO ON REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS, SINCE
CHARTER POSSIBILITIES LIMITED DURING TOURIST SEASON.

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4. MUSICAL THEATER IS ON EDGE OF DOWNTOWN, WELL SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, IS BEST EQUIPPED OF THREE HOUSES. IT APPEARS ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO OPERA HOUSE. SATIRICAL THEATER IS WELL LOCATED AND WELL EQUIPPED, BUT STAGE AND OFF-STAGE AREA PROBABLY ARE TOO SMALL.

5. MAJOR QUESTIONS REMAINING ARE (A) FIRMLY DECIDING PERIOD LIMON COMPANY AVAILABLE FOR SOFIA (CU ACTION); (B) DETERMINING WHICH HOUSE(S) AVAILABLE WHICH DATES ("SOFIACONCERT" ACTION); (C) ADVISING WHAT REPERTOIRE POSSIBLE AND PROPERTIES NEEDED (COMPANY ACTION); (D) ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION ("SOFIACONCERT" ACTION). "SOFIACONCERT" HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE FIRST CLASS HOTEL ROOMS (SOME DOUBLES) AND 10 LEVA PER DIEM.

6. WE PRESUME CONTRACT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND "SOFIACONCERT" WILL BE NEEDED. SINCE THIS IS FIRST EMBASSY SPONSORED CULTURAL PRESENTATION IN MANY YEARS, PLEASE AIRMAIL SOONEST SAMPLE CONTRACT.

7. USIA/IMV: HANKINS ADVISES YOU PLAN VTR OR FILM OF LIMON COMPANY IN EWTUY JUNE. PLEASE EXPEDITE ONE COPY HALF-INCH VTR AND/OR 16MM FILM.

8. CU/ARTS: PLEASE AIRMAIL TWO MORE PRESS KITS.
BATJER

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